

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21 (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim [[21]] 44 where at least some of the nodes include at least one ambient condition sensor.

23. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 22 where at least some of the sensors are selected from a class which includes smoke sensors, gas sensors, flame sensors, thermal sensors, location sensors, and movement sensors.

24 (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A system as in claim [[20]] 44 where at least some of the nodes include circuitry for distinguishing received communications for nodes from those for the common control element.

26. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 22 where at least some of the nodes comprise manually operable fire indicating units.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim [[27]] 44 where the members of the plurality include circuitry for forwarding the received communication to a second plurality of nodes.

29. (Currently amended) A system as in claim [[27]] 44 where the at least one additional node comprises the common control console.

30. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a plurality of at least three spaced apart nodes, at least one of the nodes is unlike the others, the nodes each include communications circuitry and can communicate directly with one another via a medium;

at least some of the nodes each include a receiver of wireless communications from a displaced source and circuitry for determining if the respective receiving node is a final recipient of a received communication where,

at least some of the nodes include at least one sensor selected from a class which includes heat sensors, flame sensors, smoke sensors and gas sensors with one of the nodes comprising a common control element[.]] ;and

which includes a common control element coupled to at least some members of the plurality via the medium.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 30 where the receiver of wireless communications includes a second sensor of incident radiant energy.

33. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 32 where the second sensor is responsive to incident infrared-type signals.

34. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 32 which includes a portable source of radiant energy signals.

35. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a plurality of spaced apart nodes, the nodes each include communications circuitry and can communicate with one another via a medium;

at least some of the nodes each include a receiver of wireless communications from a displaced source and circuitry for determining if the respective receiving node is a final recipient of a received communication where,

at least some of the nodes include at least one sensor selected from a class which includes heat sensors, flame sensors, smoke sensors and gas sensors with one of the nodes comprising a common control element where the common control element includes a graphical output device for operator information;

where the receiver of wireless communications includes a second sensor of incident radiant energy;

a portable source of radiant energy signals; and

where the portable source includes circuitry for specifying a message recipient.

36. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 35 where the portable source includes circuitry for specifying a selected message.

37. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 36 where the portable source includes circuitry for receiving communications from at least a selected node.

38. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 37 where the received communications include node test results.

39. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 36 where the selected message is selected from a class which includes at least a message designating a test, a group self-test, a message designating a time, or a message designating a location.

40. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a plurality of spaced apart different nodes, the nodes each include communications circuitry and can communicate with one another via a medium;
at least some of the nodes each include a receiver of wireless communications from a displaced source and circuitry for determining if the respective receiving node is a final recipient of a received communication where,
at least some of the nodes include at least one sensor selected from a class which includes heat sensors, flame sensors, smoke sensors and gas sensors; and
including a portable, wireless source, the source includes circuitry that specifies a message recipient.

41. (Previously Presented) A security system comprising:
a communications medium;
a plurality of ambient condition detectors coupled to the medium, at least some of the members of the plurality each include a wireless transceiver; an operator's system control console, coupled to the medium, the control console receives communications from a displaced source via one of the wireless transceivers and the medium, and responsive thereto, transmits reply communications to the displaced source via the medium and one of the wireless transceivers.

42. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 41 where some of the detectors are different and unlike other members of the plurality.

43. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 42 where at least some of the detectors are in wireless communication with the control console.

44. (New) A system comprising:
a plurality of spaced apart nodes, substantially all of the nodes of the plurality each include circuitry for directly communicating with one another via a medium;
a common control console displaced from at least some of the nodes and in communication therewith via the medium; and
where members of the plurality of the nodes each includes a receiver of wireless communications from a portable displaced source and circuitry for determining that at least one node is not a final recipient of a communication received from the portable displaced source and circuitry for forwarding the received communication to at least one additional node.